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196

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25X1

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25X1

15 April 1968

Central Intelligence Bulletin

CONTENTS

25X1

West Berlin: Communists are openly backing the student demonstrations. (Page 2)

USSR: Space shot (Page 3)

25X1

Approved For Release 2003/01/29 : CIA-RDP79T00975A011000130001-4

25X1

Approved For Release 2003/01/29 : CIA-RDP79T00975A011000130001-4

Next 1 Page(s) In Document Exempt

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West Berlin: The Communists are now openly backing the student demonstrations against the government of West Berlin.

The Communist Party in West Berlin, which is subordinate to East Germany, has exhorted members to take part in the disturbances sparked by the attack on leftist leader Rudi Dutschke. The party has previously avoided violent demonstrations in West Berlin, probably because they might spread to East Germany.

The East Germans showed their sympathy for the demonstrators by announcing on 13 April that West German ministers and other "leading officials" in Bonn "will not be allowed to transit East Germany en route to Berlin until further notice." The ban will have little effect since Bonn officials generally fly to Berlin, but will provide a psychological boost for some of the students.

Police in West Berlin have thus far been able to cope with the disturbances which have included threats against governing Mayor Schuetz and other leading members of the city's government. Demonstrations are scheduled for today in Berlin and may occur in other West German cities as well.

15 Apr 68

2

NOTE


USSR: The Soviet Union launched an unmanned Soyuz-type capsule into orbit on 14 April. The Soviets have announced the vehicle as Cosmos 212 and it is probably checking out their manned spaceflight systems. This is the sixth of the Soyuz-type spacecraft to orbit. Only Soyuz 1, the ill-fated Komarov flight, has carried a passenger. If this flight proves successful, a manned flight in earth orbit could occur within the next few weeks. [REDACTED]

25X1

15 Apr 68

3

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